

BELOIT DAILY NEWS

WISCONSIN, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1949—Sixteen Pages

Price Five Cents

Cemetery Vandals Confess Beloit Grave Desecration

Six Beloit High School Boys Nabbed

Judge Orders Names of 5 Not Divulged

Signed confessions of vandalism in Beloit's Oakwood cemetery have been obtained from a gang of Beloit boys, 16 and 17 years of age, and the youths were arraigned in municipal court today on charges of destroying cemetery property before Judge Arthur L. Luebke.

Five boys confessed actual participation damaging tomb stones and a sixth admitted being with the group but denied that he actually did any damage. They denied blame for the Rockton cemetery destruction last July 18.

Described today by Police Chief Robert W. Blumer as the "ring-leader" of the youthful gang of vandals was Robert G. Lincoln, 17, 887 Milwaukee rd., who already is on probation to Rock county Probation Officer Robert McMaster for previous offenses. Judge Luebke ruled that the names of the other five boys, four of whom already have been transferred to the juvenile side of the court, may not be reported.

State statutes provide that names of persons of juvenile age charged with a criminal offense may or may not be published, at the discretion of the court.

The cemetery vandalism occurred on Thursday and Friday nights of last week, when at least 35 tombstones in the cemetery were overturned and many of them chipped or broken. The gang of teen-age high school boys was rounded up by Beloit police yesterday afternoon and evening after a week-long investigation in which most members of the force participated.

To Juvenile Court

Arraignment of the six youths was conducted in municipal court this morning before Judge Luebke. The boys were arraigned on a criminal charge of "wilfully, wantonly and unlawfully injuring or removing gravestones within the limits of a cemetery." Four of the boys, including Lincoln, entered pleas of guilty, one pleaded not guilty, and one entered no plea.

Cases of three of those pleading guilty and the boy who pleaded not guilty were immediately transferred by Judge Luebke to the juvenile side of the court and continued until 9 a.m. Saturday. The four were released in the custody of their parents until that time.

The maximum penalty provided under the criminal charge on which the six were originally arraigned is three months in the county jail or a fine of \$100 (not both). In juvenile cases, offenders are usually placed on parole.

Drank Beer First

Lincoln's case was set over to Nov. 2, at 9 a.m., for sentencing. He was ordered held in the Rock county detention home at Milton until that time.

Case of the sixth youth, who was represented in court by Attorney W. E. Hoard, was continued to 9 a.m. Saturday. Hoard requested that the court transfer the case of his client to the juvenile side of the court and said his client did not wish to enter a plea this morning. Judge Luebke continued the case without a plea and indicated that he would decide tomorrow whether to transfer it to the juvenile side. The boy is also on parole to McMaster.

The boy was released into the custody of his father until his appearance in court.

Two of the youths were held in the city jail last night; three were housed in the county detention home at Milton and the sixth was allowed to remain at his home overnight.

The gang was taken into custody yesterday following an extensive investigation. All six boys signed confessions that they participated in the cemetery vandalism on both Thursday and Friday nights. One other boy confessed he also was involved on Thursday night, and the remaining three said they were with Lincoln and the other parolee on Friday night.

Sheriff Investigates

The five boys who participated in Friday night's vandalism admitted that they drank a case of quart bottles of beer and a few cans before going to the cemetery. The cemetery vandalism was not reported for several days fol-

THE BELOIT (Wis.) DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1949

Judge Excuses One Boy, Three Get Probation

Three teen-age Beloit high school boys arrested Thursday and arraigned in municipal court yesterday on charges of destroying cemetery property this morning were placed on probation by Municipal Judge Arthur L. Luebke in juvenile court and ordered to make full restitution for the damage done to tombstones in Oakwood cemetery a week ago.

Hearings Continue

Four of a gang of six boys 16 and 17 years old were brought into juvenile court today after having been arraigned and entered guilty pleas to criminal charges yesterday. One of the boys was released by Judge Luebke this morning and cleared of all responsibility for damage to cemetery gravestones. The boy had admitted being with the gang on one of two occasions when the cemetery was vandalized, but he denied doing any actual damage.

Case of a fifth member of the youthful vandal gang was taken up by Judge Luebke shortly before noon today. The youth yesterday entered no plea to the cemetery destruction charge, and the case was continued in criminal court until today. Judge Luebke was expected to rule whether the youth, who already is on probation, will be transferred to juvenile court or retained on the criminal side.

One Is Confined

The sixth member, described by police as the "ring-leader" of the gang, is Robert H. Lincoln, 17, 887 Milwaukee rd. Lincoln was arraigned along with the other boys yesterday and pleaded guilty. He already was on probation for earlier offenses, and Judge Luebke continued his case for sentencing until Nov. 2, on the criminal side of the court. Lincoln is confined now at the Rock county detention home at Milton.

The three youths placed on probation today will be under the supervision of county probation officer Robert McMaster.

Good Police Work

THE Beloit police department deserves more than passing credit for rounding up the youths who admittedly took part in the desecration of grave markers in Oakwood cemetery a week ago.

Because those who damaged stones in the Rockton cemetery have not been apprehended, though the offense occurred three months ago, many felt that police here would have difficulty in learning the identity of those who participated in the offense at Oakwood cemetery.

The Daily News, at the request of the police, cooperated in not publishing the news of the damage at the cemetery to enable authorities to carry on a quiet investigation.

* * *

WHEN police and city authorities were convinced that withholding the information further would not serve any useful purpose, the Daily News published details of the damage. The people of Beloit were aroused and were in the mood to offer any assistance they could. Because of the determination of city officials and police to solve the vandalism, every available detective was assigned to the case.

Astute detective work on the park of the police eventually paid off when first one and then another of the youths involved were taken into custody. Once confronted with the knowledge the police had, the youths, 16 and 17 years of age, admitted their parts.

* * *

ACCORDING to the youths' statements to police, they had been drinking beer prior to tipping over the stones. Authorities should, if possible, determine where these boys obtained the beer and under what circumstances.

The community, naturally, is relieved to know that the police apprehended the youths who committed the vandalism. The promptness of authorities in tracking them down should act as a deterrent to other youngsters who may have ideas of vandalism lurking in their minds.

(Continued on Page 2)

Cemetery Vandals May Have Set Rockton Mill Fire, Deputies Discover

ROCKTON—Possibility that the vandals who Monday night did \$3,000 worth of damage to tombstones at the Rockton cemetery are responsible for the \$15,000 blaze that destroyed the Rockton Feed Mill on the same night is being investigated by the Winnebago county sheriff's department.

Two deputies said they have evidence that the fire was set by the same persons who desecrated the cemetery by uprooting and otherwise damaging 67 grave markers and monuments. The deputies are Richard Odson and John Bietau.

Suspect Arson

An intensive investigation of the cemetery vandalism was launched yesterday. Deputy Illinois state fire marshal Ralph Trepanier of Waukegan arrived in Rockton today and is probing the debris on the site of the mill, an old Rockton landmark, for possible evidence of arson.

Although the sheriff's department has indicated that there are only "very slim" clues upon which to work, every lead is being traced in an effort to apprehend the vandals who overran the cemetery.

Fire Early Tuesday

The blaze which almost leveled the building which housed the feed mill was discovered in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Volunteer fire fighters from Rockton and South Beloit were unable to save the structure or its contents.

Probable cause of the fire had been given as spontaneous combustion of new oats stored in a basement bin. Officials were unable to be positive in attributing the fire to combustion, however.

In the summer of 1949, the community was shocked by a wholly new form of lawlessness when extensive vandalism was discovered in the Rockton Cemetery.

To date, nothing has been discovered as to the perpetrators.

I visited the cemetery July 28, 1949 to take pictures of Brigadier-gen. Elon Farnsworth's monument and happily found that the vandals had not touched it. But smaller stones near it had been broken and tipped over.

A.S. McL. Beloit, April 19, 1952.

THE BELOIT (Wis.) DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1950



Members of the Rockton American Legion, in this picture, are repairing tombstones and grave markers at the Rockton cemetery. Many markers were damaged and some broken by vandals last summer. The Rockton Legion supplied all materials

and labor for the repair work. The post is working in cooperation with the Rockton Centennial observance committee on the project. Left to right are Dale Wetzel, Art Harmon, Christy Hough and Everett Vaughan.

Photo by Butler

Beloit celebrates DPW groundbreaking

By Deb Jensen-DeHart

Daily News staff writer

Construction of the City of Beloit's new Department of Public Works building officially began Wednesday with a ground breaking ceremony at the new site, on Spring Brook Court.

The 73,000 square-foot building is expected to run about \$4.2 million and will be the central facility for operations for streets and maintenance, solid waste and parks and recreation.

The city sold the present building, 1515 Yates Ave. to Dan Langone, owner of the Belco company for \$250,000 so he may expand his business.

Vincent Akhimie, public works director, opened the ceremony Wednesday with words of welcome and a vision for the future. Chris Walsh, director of streets and solid waste, acted as master of

ceremonies. City Manager Daniel T. Kelley also spoke to the crowd saying Beloit is lucky to be acquiring the new building and that he was glad construction is now on the road.

Progress on the site was held up temporarily when bids for the work came in about 30 percent over budget earlier. But the department downsized plans and rebid the work in June. According to the agreement the city made with Langone, however, if the new building is not completed before Jan. 30, the city will have to begin paying rent at the old site of \$9,000 per month.

Several people attended Wednesday's ceremony, including: Rep. Judy Robson, D-Beloit, Beloit City councilors Vern Marks and William Steinkellner, Council President John Murphy, Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Nancy Forbeck, BEDCOR Director Kathy Murphy,



Photo provided by John Kalkirtz
Officials from Beloit gathered at the site of the groundbreaking for the new, multi-million Department of Public Works facility Wednesday.

and city staff members Dave Botts and Andy Hill. Ron Hanson, local union president for the DPW present.

Broken Pump Is Cause of 5/8/71 Water Shortage

The lack of water in East Lawn Cemetery has been due to a broken pump which normally supplies water to the cemetery, explained Richard L. Kouppinen, city superintendent of cemeteries.

Kouppinen responded today to complaints of cemetery visitors over the shortage of water.

"Because of the high cost of repairing or replacing the pump," he said, "we have decided to connect the water system to the city water supply. We hope to have the work completed sometime during June."

Until the connection is complete, the cemetery will be supplied with water from a 2,000-gallon tank truck parked in the cemetery, explained Kouppinen. He said water from the truck will be available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.



11/7/72

All Over But The Counting

William Guelzow, of Beloit, was among the early voters at Oakwood Cemetery casting his ballot for offices from president to county surveyor. An 11 a.m. check of polling places showed Beloit can expect a heavy voter turnout, keeping pace with the record established in 1968. (Daily News photo by Steve Harry)

NOVEMBER 25, 1953

Historical Society Plans Mack House Restoration.

Plans to raise about \$3,000 before April 1 for the restoration of the Stephen Mack house in Macktown forest preserve were launched Tuesday night at a meeting of the Rockton Township Historical society.

The house built by Stephen Mack in 1839 is in disrepair, but society committee members said Tuesday night that they have complete plans for its restoration and preservation.

The first step of the project will be to install a modern heating unit which, according to Armour Titus, Rockton architect, would prevent further damage from moisture. Titus also advised insulation.

Hopkins Heads Committee

The first floor of the house will be the first to be renovated and restored to its original state. Work on the remainder of the house would come later.

Guy Hopkins was named president of the committee in charge. Other officers selected Tuesday night include Mrs. Frank Truman, first vice president; Donald Grutiger, second vice president; the Rev. Claude Warren, pastor of the

Old Stone church, third vice president; Mrs. William Bigelow, secretary, and Paul Sprague, treasurer.

The house, of white oak frame construction, has hand hewn timbers and planks tongued and grooved by hand. Several panes of the original glass still remain in the windows and some of the original lime plaster is on the walls.

Cradle Will Be Replaced

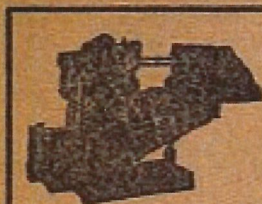
Efforts will be made to obtain furnishings from the era of construction and the infant cradle used of Stephen Mack and his wife, the Indian princess Hononnegah, which is now in Rockton, will be replaced in the home.

Mack was one of the earliest settlers of the area. He founded the Macktown trading post which was used in trading staple goods to the Indians for furs. He had hoped that the community would someday become larger than Milwaukee.

The different types of fundraising projects will be announced by the committees in charge and will continue until the goal is reached.

Automobile Garages—Cont.

Chevrolet Service Garage 416 Broad.....	2067
Dodge Bros Sales & Service 506 Broad.....	92
Ferguson Bros 319 St Paul.....	3179
Gateway Garage 630-3rd.....	3279
Gillespie Garage 628 3rd.....	187
Griswold W O 842-4th.....	361
Hilton Garage 314 Pleasant.....	35
Inman & Gravdale 427 State.....	721
J J Jeffers Motor Car Co 319 St Paul av.....	3181
Kent's Garage 94 S State.....	2826
Maffy Joe State.....	4141
Maxwell's Garage 1310 Vine.....	564
Pfeiffer H L 415 Broad.....	4131
Russell Bud 419 State.....	492
Saris J H 520 Broad.....	674
Turnblington R E 945 Central av.....	2750-W
Thomson A E 700 W Grand av.....	1408-W



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Hansen A L 144 State.....	3030
Matson and Ruegger 904 St Lawrence av.....	3526
Poe Wallace 904 Copeland av.....	1384

Automobile Tires

BRUNTON J W 406 Broad.....	2813
Gateway City Tire Co 319 Pleasant.....	689
McGavoch Tire & Supply Co 1 Public av.....	368
Schluster Tire Service 516 E Grand av.....	186
Two State Tire & Battery Co 832 St Lawrence.....	3783

Awnings, Tents

Northrop Tent & Awning Co 629-4th.....996

Awnings || Canvas || **Tents**
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Bakers

Bake-Rite Bakery 319 State.....	312
Kloosterman Baking Co 105 E Grand av.....	347
Olympia Bakery 934 Pleasant.....	43
Vale Bakery 822 E Grand av.....	808
Wilkinson Thomas St Lawrence av.....	555

Banks

Beloit Savings Bank 248 E Grand av.....	255
Beloit State Bank 311 E Grand av.....	385
Hyde L C & Brittan Bank 349 E Grand av.....	25
Second National Bank 352 E Grand av.....	49

Baths

HANSEN OLE 433½ E Grand av.....1328

Batteries

Bryden Battery & Elec Shop Cross.....	2550
Fiske L O automotive dept 423 State.....	413
King Battery Co 438 N State.....	775
McEachran Battery Co 413 Broad.....	530
Willard Battery Service Station 438 N State.....	775

Bicycles

Anderson B A 212 State.....	1253
Turner Cyclery 412 State.....	346

Billiard Halls

Arcade Billiard Parlor 221 E Grand av.....	2927
Bredok Anton 227 State.....	2799
Central Billiard Parlor 335 E Grand av.....	1173
Divine Bros 109 E Grand av.....	3649
Falco Joe 222 State.....	2551
Garofolo Sam 225 State.....	1618
Higgins Tim 217 State.....	3272
James Wm 426 Race.....	354
Lindenman C H 129 E Grand av.....	567
Missner Bros 303 State.....	767
Niagara Billiard Hall 431 E Grand av.....	587
Palace Soft Drink & Billiard Hall 216 State.....	3529
Ryan and Covey Billiard Parlor 618-4th.....	3461
Stainoff Victor 642 Pleasant.....	3931

Blacksmiths

Shaw R O and Son 306 Pleasant.....	1667
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Bottling Works

Lufkin Bottling Wks 866 W Grand av.....	643
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Bowling Alleys

Dotts Alleys 644-4th.....	4083
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Brass Manufacturers

Beloit Brass Works S Bluff.....	104
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Builders Supplies

Beloit Builders Supplies Co 481 Race.....	225
Cunningham Bros 648-3d.....	34

Carpet Cleaners

Compressed Air Co 103 Prospect.....	77
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Carpets

Bailey P J & Sons 360 E Grand av.....	44
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Cemeteries

Robertson Elmer Supt Cemetery.....	3946
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Swanson W L Goodwin blk.....	3198

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 Bursini M E 212 State.....2551
 Majestic Sweet Shop 418 Broad.....1173
 Mattson John Billiards 173 W Grand av.....3649
 Niagara Billiard Parlor 431 E Grand av.....587
 Pettit's Billiard Hall 217 State.....5105
 Ryan's Billiard Parlor 618-4th.....3461

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Beloit Box Board Co 2nd.....3
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Brake Manufacturers

Warner Electric Brake Corp 310 Gardner.....447

Brass Products Manufacturers

Beloit Brass Works 8 Bluff.....163

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 Swingley Bros 301 Pleasant.....307

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 Wilford Lumber & Fuel Co 108 State.....13

Candy Mfrs.—Wholesale

Purity Candy House 812 Hackett.....2016

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See Rug (Carpet) Cleaners

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 Oakwood Cemetery 1321 Clary.....3946

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 First Cong Church 301 Bathnell.....2950
 First Presbyterian Church 501 Prospect.....3564
 Methodist E Church First 501 Public av.....145
 Our Saviours Luth Church 157 Bluff.....4279
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 (See Advertisement Opposite Page)

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 (See Advertisement Opposite Page)
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(Continued Page 8)

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